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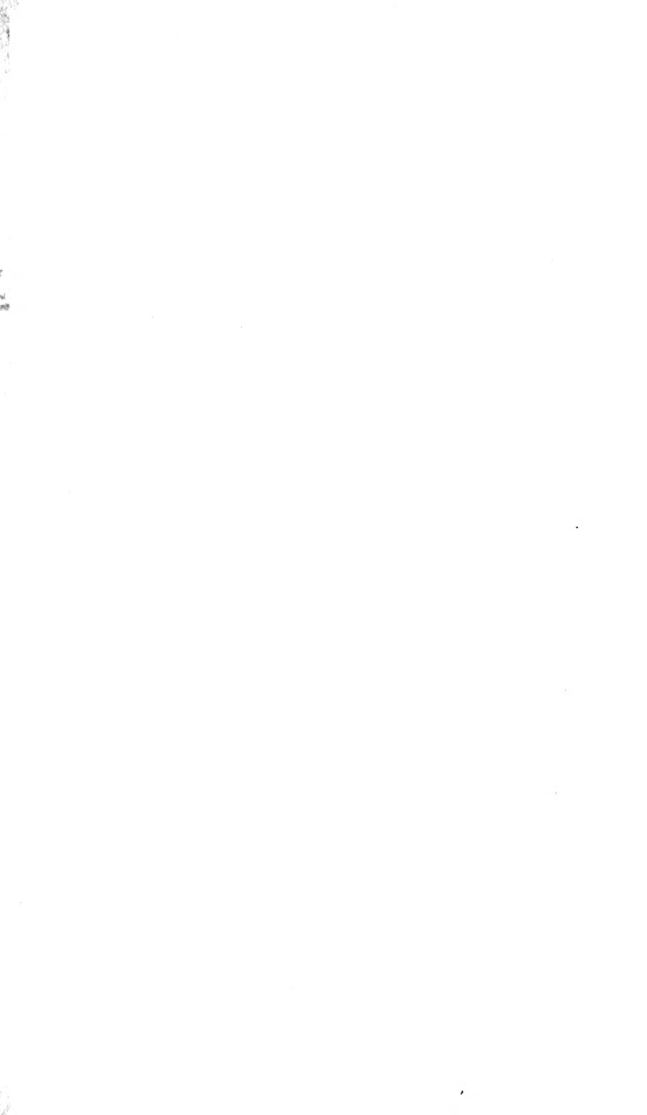
Ссрy 1





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1804





BROAD GRINS ;

BY

GEORGE COLMAN,

(THE YOUNGER ;)

COMPRISING, WITH NEW ADDITIONAL
TALES IN VERSE,

THOSE FORMERLY PUBLISHED UNDER THE TITLE OF

“ MY NIGHTGOWN AND SLIPPERS.”

“ DEME SUPERCILIO NUBEM.”

Worcester :

PRINTED BY ISAIAH THOMAS, JUN.

SOLD BY HIM, AND BY B. & J. HOMANS, AND E. LARKIN.
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.....
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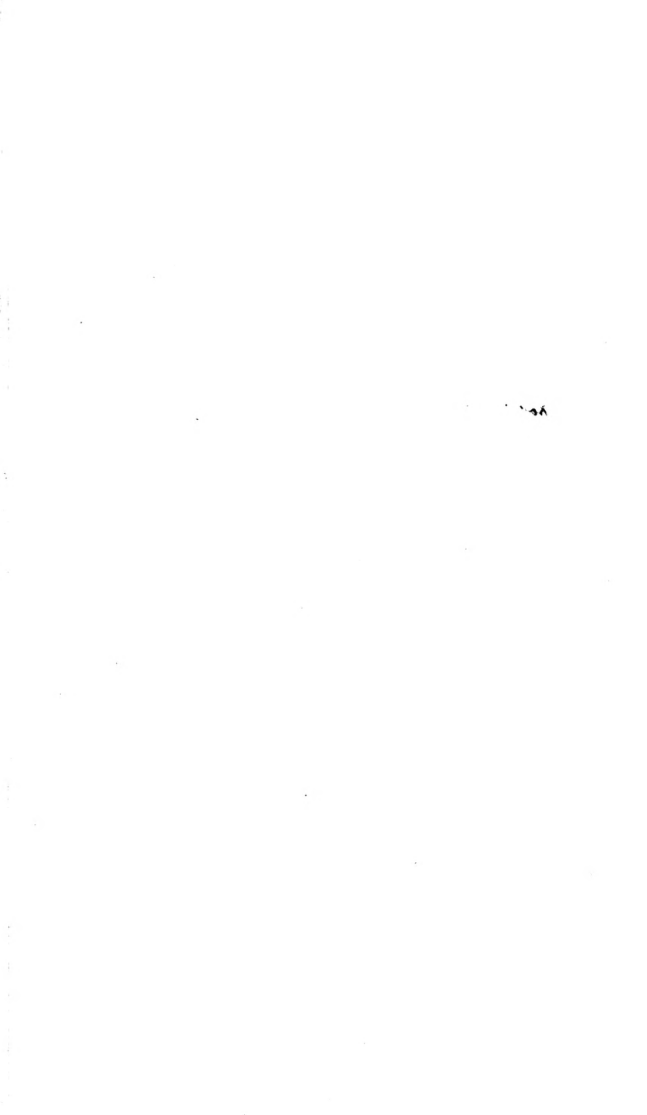
MY BOOKSELLERS informed me, lately, that several inquiries had been made for MY NIGHT-GOWN, and SLIPPERS.—but that every copy had been sold :—They had been out of print these two years.....“ Then publish them again,” said I boldly....(I print at my own risk)...and with an air of triumph. Messrs. CADELL & DAVIES advised me to make additions.....“ The WORK is, really, too short,” said Messrs. CADELL & DAVIES. ...“ I wish, gentlemen,” return’d I, “ my readers were of your opinion.” “ I protest Sir” said they, (and they asserted it, both together, with great em-

phasis) "you have but **THREE TALES**."...I told them, carelessly, it was enough for the greatest **BASHAW**, among modern poets, and wish'd them a good morning. When a man, as **STERNE** observes, "can extricate himself with an **EQUIVOQUE**, in such an unequal match,"....(and two booksellers to one poet are tremendous odds)... "he is not ill off;"...but reflecting a little, as I went home, I began to think my pun was a vile one...and did not assist me, one jot, in my argument ;...and, now I have put it upon paper, it appears viler still ;...it is execrable.....So, without much further reasoning, I sat down to rhyming ;...rhyming, as the reader will see, in open defiance of **ALL REASON**...except the reasons of **Messrs. CADELL & DAVIES**.

Thus, you have MY NIGHTGOWN and SLIPPERS, with ADDITIONS, converted to BROAD GRINS ;...and 'tis well if they may not end in WIDE YAWNS, at last ! Should this be the case, gentle Reviewers, do not, ungratefully, attempt to break my sleep, (you will find it labor lost) because I have contributed to your's.

GEORGE COLMAN, (the YOUNGER.)

May, 1803.



TOM, DICK and WILL, were little known to Fame ;
No matter ;—
But to the Alehouse, oftentimes, they came,
To chatter.

It was the custom of these three
To sit up late ;
And, o'er the embers of the Alehouse fire,
When steadier customers retire,
The choice *Triumviri*, d'ye see,
Held a debate.

Held a debate ?——On politics, no doubt.

Not so ; they cared not who was in,

No, not a pin——

Nor who was out.

All their discourse on modern Poets ran ;

For in the Muses was their sole delight :—

They talk'd of such, and such, and such a man ;

Of those who could, and those who could not write.

It cost them very little pains

To count the modern Poets, who had brains,

'Twas a small difficulty ;—'twasn't any ;

They were so few :

But to cast up the scores of men
 Who wield a stump they call a pen,
 Lord ! they had much to do,——
 They were so many !

Buoy'd on a sea of fancy, Genius rises,
 And like the rare Leviathan surprises ;
 But the *small fry* of scribblers !—tiny souls !
 They wriggle thro' the mud in shoals.

It would have raised a smile to see the faces
 They made, and the ridiculous grimaces,
 At many an Author, as they overhaul'd him.
 They gave no quarter to a calf,
 Blown up with puff, and paragraph ;
 But, if they found him bad, they maul'd him.

On modern Dramatists they fell,

Pounce, *vi et armis*—tooth and nail—pell mell.

They call'd them Carpenters, and Smugglers ;

Filching their incidents from ancient hoards,

And knocking them together, like deal boards :

And Jugglers ;

Who all the town's attention fix,

By making—Plays ?—No Sir ; by making *tricks*.

The Versifiers—Heaven defend us !

They play'd the very devil with their rhymes.

They hoped Apollo a new set would send us ;—

And then, invidiously enough,

Placed modish verse, which they call'd stuff,

Against the writings of the elder times.

To say the truth, a modern versifier,

Clapp'd cheek by jowl

With Pope, with Dryden, and with Prior,

Would look damn'd scurvily, upon my soul !

For Novels, should their critic hints succeed,

The Misses might fare better, when they took 'em;

But it would fare extremely ill, indeed,

With gentle *Messieurs Lane*, and *Hookham*.

“ A Novel, now,” says WILL, “ is nothing more .

“ Than an old castle—and a creaking door—

“ A distant hovel—

“ Clanking of chains—a gallery—a light—

“ Old armour—and a phantom all in white—

“ And there's a Novel !

“ Scourge me such catchpenny inditers

“ Out of the land,” quoth WILL——rousing in
passion——

“ And fie upon the readers of such writers,

“ Who bring them into fashion !

WILL rose in declamation. “ ’Tis the bane,”

Says he, “ of youth ;—’tis the perdition :

“ It fills a giddy female brain

“ With vice, romance, lust, terror, pain—

“ With superstition.

“ Were I Pastor in a boardingschool,

“ I’d quash such books *in toto* ;—if I couldn’t,

“ Let me but catch one Miss that broke my rule,

“ I’d flog her soundly ; damme if I wouldn’t.”

WILLIAM, 'tis plain, was getting in a rage ;

But, THOMAS dryly said—for he was cool—

“ I think no gentleman would mend the age

“ By flogging Ladies at a Boardingschool.”

DICK knock'd the ashes from his pipe,

And said, “ Friend WILL,

“ You give the Novels a fair wipe ;

“ But still,

“ While you, my friend, with passion run 'em down,

“ They're in the hands of all the town.

“ The reason's plain,” proceeded DICK,

“ And simply thus——

“ Taste, overglutted, grows depraved, and sick,

“ And needs a *stimulus*.

“ Time was,—(when honest Fielding writ)—

“ Tales full of Nature, Character and Wit,

“ Were reckon’d most delicious boil’d and roast :

“ But stomachs are so cloy’d with novelfeeding,

“ Folks get a vitiated taste in reading,

“ And want that strong provocative, a Ghost.

“ Or, to come nearer,

“ And put the case a little clearer :—

“ Minds, just like bodies, suffer enervation,

“ By too much use ;

“ And sink into a state of relaxation,

“ With long abuse.

“ Now, a Romance, with reading Debauchees,

“ Rouses their torpid powers, when Nature fails ;

“ And all these Legendary Tales

“ Are, to a wornout mind, Cantharides.

“ But how to cure the evil ? you will say :

“ My *Recipe* is—laughing it away.

“ Lay bare the weak farrago of those men

“ Who fabricate such visionary schemes,

“ As if the Nightmare rode upon their pen,

“ And troubled all their ink with hideous dreams.

“ For instance—when a solemn Ghost stalks in,

“ And, thro’ a mystic tale is busy,

“ Strip me the Gentleman unto his skin—

“ What is he ?

“ Truly, ridiculous enough :

“ Me, e-trash ;—and very childish stuff.

“ Draw but a Ghost, or Fiend, *of low degree,*

“ And all the bubble’s broken ;—Let us see ;”

THE
MAID OF THE MOOR,
OR
THE WATERFIENDS.

ON a wild Moor, all brown and bleak,
Where broods the heathfrequentering grouse,
There stood a tenement antique ;
Lord Hoppergollop's country house.

Here Silence reign'd with lips of glue,
And undisturb'd maintain'd her law ;
Save when the Owl cry'd " whoo ! whoo ! whoo !"
Or the hoarse Crow croak'd " caw ! caw ! caw !"

Neglected mansion !—for, 'tis said,
 Whene'er the snow came feathering down,
 Four barbed steeds—from the Bull's head,—
 Carried thy master up to town.

Weak Hoppergollop !—Lords may moan,
 Who stake, in London, their estate,
 On two, small, rattling, bits of bone ;
 On *little figure*, or on *great*,

Swift whirl the wheels.—He's gone.—a Rose
 Remains behind, whose virgin look,
 Unseen, must blush in wintry snows,
 Sweet, beauteous blossom !——'twas the Cook !

A bolder far than my weak note,

Maid of the Moor ! thy charms demand :

Eels might be proud to lose their coat,

If skinn'd by Molly Dumpling's hand.

Long had the fair one sat alone,

Had none remain'd save only she ;—

She by herself had been—if one

Had not been left, for company.

'Twas a tall youth, whose cheek's clear hue

Was tinged with health, and manly toil ;—

Cabbage he sow'd ; and, when it grew,

He always cut it off, to boil.

"Oft would he cry " Delve, Delve the hole !
 " And prune the tree, and trim the root !
 " And stick the wig upon the pole,
 " To scare the sparrows from the fruit !"

A small, mute favorite, by day,
 Follow'd his step ; where'er he wheels
 His barrow round the garden gay,
 A bobtail cur is at his heels.

Ah, man ! the brute creation see !
 Thy constancy oft needs the spur !
 While lessons of fidelity
 Are found in every bobtail cur.

Hard toil'd the youth, so fresh and strong,

While Bobtail in his face would look,

And mark'd his master troll the song—

“ Sweet Molly Dumpling ! Oh, thou Cook ! ”—

For thus he sung ;—while Cupid smiled ;—

Pleased that the Gard'ner own'd his dart,

Which pruned his passions, running wild,

And grafted true love on his heart.

Maid of the Moor ! his love return !

True love ne'er tints the cheek with shame

When Gard'ners' hearts, like hotbeds, burn,

A Cook may surely feed the flame,

Ah ! not averse from love was she ;

Tho' pure as Heaven's snowy flake ;

Both loved ;—and, tho' a Gard'ner he,

He knew not what it was to rake.

Cold blows the blast ;—the night's obscure ;

The mansion's crazy wainscoats crack ;

No star appear'd ;—and all the Moor,

Like ev'ry other Moor—was black.

Alone, pale, trembling, near the fire,

The lovely Molly Dumpling sat ;

Much did she fear, and much admire

What Thomas Gard'ner could be at.

List'ning, her hand supports her chin ;

But, ah ! no foot is heard to stir :

He comes not, from the garden, in ;

Nor he, nor little Bobtail cur.

They cannot come, sweet maid ! to thee ;

Flesh, both of cur and man, is grass !

And what's impossible, can't be ;

And never, never, comes to pass !

She paces thro' the hall antique,

To call her Thomas from his toil ;

Ope's the huge door ;—the hinges creak ;—

Because the hinges wanted oil.

'Thrice, on the threshold of the hall,

She " Thomas !" cried, with many a sob ;

And, thrice, on Bobtail did she call,

Exclaiming, sweetly—" Bob ! Bob ! Bob !"

Vain maid ! a Gard'ner's corpse, 'tis said,

In answers can but ill succeed ;

And, dogs that hear, when they are dead,

Are very cunning Dogs indeed !

Back thro' the hall she bent her way ;

All, all was solitude around !

The candle shed a feeble ray——

Tho' a large mould of four to th' pound.

Full closely to the fire she drew ;
Adown her cheek a salt tear stole ;
When, lo ! a coffin out there flew,
And in her apron burnt a 'hole !

Spiders their busy deathwatch tick'd ;
A certain sign that Fate will frown ;
'The clumsy kitchen clock, too, click'd ;
A certain sign it was not down.

More strong and strong her terrors rose ;——
Her shadow did the maid appal ;——
She trembled at her lovely nose,——
It look'd so long against the wall.

Up to her chamber, damp and cold,

She climb'd Lord Hoppergollop's stair ;—

Three stories high—long, dull, and old,—

As great Lords stories often are.

All Nature now appear'd to pause ;

And “ o'er the one half world seem'd dead ;”

No “ curtain'd sleep” had she ;——because

She had no curtains to her bed.

List'ning she lay ;——with iron din,

The clock struck *Twelve* ; the door flew wide ;

When Thomas, grimly, glided in,

With little Bobtail by his side.

Tall, like the poplar, was his size ;

Green, green his waistcoat was, as leeks ;

Red, red as beet root were his eyes ;

Pale, pale, as turnips, were his cheeks !

Soon as the Spectre she espied,

The fear struck damsel faintly said,

“What wou’d my Thomas ?”—he replied,

“Oh ! Molly Dumpling ! I am dead.”

“All in the flower of youth I fell,

Cut off with health’s full blossom crown’d ;

I was not ill—but in a well

I tumbled backwards, and was drown’d.”

“Four fathom deep thy love doth lye ;

His faithful dog his fate doth share ;

We’re Fiends ;—this is not he and I ;

We are not *here*—for we are *there*.”

“Yes ;—two foul Water Fiends are we ;

Maid of the Moor ! attend us now !

Thy hour’s at hand ;—we come for thee !”

The little Fiend cur said “bow wow !”

“To wind her in her cold, cold grave,

A Holland sheet a maiden likes ;

A sheet of water thou shalt have ;

Such sheets there are in Holland Dykes.”

The Fiends approach ; the Maid did shrink ;
Swift thro' the night's foul air they spin ;
They took her to the green well's brink,
And, with a souse, they plump'd her in.

So true the fair, so true the youth,
Maids, to this day, their story tell :
And hence the proverb rose, that **TRUTH**
Lies in the bottom of a well.

DICK ended :—TOM and WILL approved his strains :

And thought his Legend made as good a figure
As naturalizing a dull German's brains,
Which beget issues in the Heliconian stews,
Upon a profligate *Tenth* Muse,
In all the gloomy *impotence of vigor*.*

" 'Twas now the very witching time of night,
When *Profers* yawn."—Discussion grew diffuse ;
Argument's *carte and tierce* were lost, outright ;
And they fought loose.

* N. B. Half our modern Legends are either borrowed or translated from the German.

Says WILL, quite carelessly—"the other day,
 As I was lying on my back,
 In bed,
 I took a fancy in my head ;—
 Some writings aren't so difficult as people say ;—
 They are *a knack*."

"What writings? whose?" says TOM—raking the cinders.

"Many," cried WILL :—"For instance——PETER
 PINDAR'S."

"What! call you his *a* knack?—"yes ;—mind his
 measure.

"In *that* lies half the *point* that gives us pleasure.

"Pooh !—'tisn't that," DICK cried :—

"*That* has been tried,

Over and over :—Bless your souls !

'Tis seen in *Crazy Tales*, and twenty things beside :
His measure is as old as Poles."

"Granted," cries WILL : "I know I'm speaking treason :—

For PETER,

With many a joke, and queer conceit, doth season
His metre :

"And this I'll say of PETER, to his face,
As 'twas, time past, of Vanbrugh writ—

PETER has often wanted *grace*,
But he has never wanted *wit*.

"Yet I will tell you a plain tale,
And see how far quaint measure will prevail."

THE
NEWCASTLE APOTHECARY.

A MAN, in many a country town, we know,
Professes openly with Death to wrestle ;
Ent'ring the field against the grimly foe,
Arm'd with a mortar and a pestle.

Yet, some affirm no enemies they are ;
But meet just like prize fighters, in a Fair,
Who first shake hands before they box,
Then give each other plaguy knocks, /
With all the love and kindness of a brother :
So (many a suffering Patient faith)
Tho' the Apothecary fights with Death,
Still they're sworn friends to one another.

A member of this Æsculapian line,

Lived at Newcastle upon Tyne :

No man could better gild a pill ;

Or make a bill ;

Or mix a draught, or bleed, or blister ;

Or draw a tooth out of your head ;

Or chatter scandal by your bed ;

Or give a clyster.

Of occupations these were *quantum suff.* :

Yet, still, he thought the list not long enough ;

And therefore Midwifery he chose to pin to't.

This balanced things ;—for if he huri'd

A few score mortals from the world,

He made amends by bringing others into't.

His fame, full six miles round the country ran ;

In short, in reputation he was *solus* ;

All the old women call'd him " a fine man ! "

His name was Bolus.

Benjamin Bolus, tho' in *trade*,

(Which oftentimes will Genius fether)

Read works of fancy, it is said ;

And cultivated the *Belles Letters*.

And why should this be thought so odd ?

Can't men have taste who cure a phthysic ?

Of Poetry tho' Patron God,

Apollo patronises Physic.

Bolus loved verse ;—and took so much delight in't,
That his prescriptions he resolved to write in't.

No opportunity he e'er let pass

Of writing the directions, on his labels,
In dapper couplets—like *Gay's Fables* ;
Or, rather, like the lines in *Hudibras*.

Apothecary's verse !—and where's the treason ?

'Tis simply honest dealing ;—not a crime ;—
When Patients swallow physic without reason,
It is but fair to give a little rhyme.

He had a Patient lying at death's door,

Some three miles from the town—it might be four ;

To whom, one evening, Bolus sent an article,
In Pharmacy, that's call'd cathartical.

And, on the label of the stuff,

He wrote this verse ;

Which, one would think, was clear enough,

And terse :—

“ When taken,

To be well shaken.”

Next morning, carly, Bolus rose ;

And to the Patient's house he goes ;—

Upon his pad,

Who a vile trick of stumbling had :

It was, indeed, a very sorry hack ;

But that's of course :

For what's expected from a horse,

With an Apothecary on his back ?

Bolus arrived ; and gave a doubtful tap ;—

Between a single and a double rap.—

Knocks of this kind

Are given by Gentlemen who teach to dance ;

By Fiddlers, and by Opera singers :

One loud, and then a little one behind ;

As if the knocker fell, by chance,

Out of their fingers.

The Servant lets him in, with dismal face,
Long as a courtier's out of place—

Portending some disaster ;

John's countenance as rueful look'd, and grim,
As if th' Apothecary had physic'd him—

And not his master.

“ Well, how's the Patient ?” Bolus said—

John shook his head.

“ Indeed !—hum ! ha !—that's very odd !

He took the draught ?”—John gave a nod.

“ Well—how ?—what then ?—speak out you dunce !”

“ Why then”—says John—“ we *shook* him once.”

“ Shook him !—how ?”—Bolus stammer'd out ;—

“ We jolted him about.”

“Zounds! shake a Patient, man!—a shake won’t do.”

“No, Sir—and so we gave him *two*.”

“Two shakes! od’s curse!

’Twould make the Patient worse.”

“It did so, Sir!—and so a *third* we tried.”

“Well, and what then?”—“then, Sir, my master died.”



Ere WILL had done ’twas waxing wond’rous late;

And reeling Bucks the street began to scour;

While guardian Watchmen, with a tottering gait,

Cried every thing, quite clear, except the hour.

“Another pot,” says TOM, “and then

A Song;—and so good-night, good Gentlemen!”

“ I’ve Lyrics, such as *Bon Vivants* indite,
In which your bibbers of Champagne delight.—
The Poetaster, bawling them in clubs,
Obtains a miserably noted name ;
And every noisy Bacchanalian dubs
The Singing Writer with a bastard Fame.”

LODGINGS
FOR
SINGLE GENTLEMEN.

WHO has e'er been in London, that overgrown
place,
Has seen "*Lodgings to Let*" stare him full in the face ;
Some are good, and let dearly ; while some, 'tis well
known,
Are so dear, and so bad, they are best let alone.

WILL WADDLE, whose temper was studious, and
lonely,
Hired lodgings that took Single Gentlemen only ;
But Will was so fat he appear'd like a ton ;—
Or like two Single Gentlemen, roll'd into One.

He enter'd his rooms, and to bed he retreated ;
 But, all the night long, he felt fever'd, and heated ;
 And, tho' heavy to weigh, as a score of fat sheep,
 He was not, by any means, heavy to sleep.

Next night 'twas the same !—and the next ;—and the
 next ;

He perspired like an ox ; he was nervous, and vex'd ;
 Week pass'd after week ; till, by weekly succession,
 His weakly condition was past all expression.

In six months, his acquaintance began much to doubt
 him ;

For his skin, “like a lady's loose gown,” hung about
 him ;

He sent for a Doctor ; and cried, like a ninny,

“ I have lost many pounds—make me well—there’s a guinea.”

The Doctor look’d wise ;—“ a slow fever,” he said :
Prescribed sudorifics—and going to bed.

“ Sudorifics in bed,” exclaim’d Will, “ are humbugs ;
“ I’ve enough of them there, without paying for drugs.”

WILL kick’d out the Doctor ;—but, when ill indeed,
E’en dismissing the Doctor don’t *always* succeed ;
So, calling his host— he said—“ Sir, do you know,
“ I’m the fat Single Gentleman, six months ago ?

“ Look’e, landlord, I think,” argued Will, with a grin,
“ That with honest intentions you first *took me in* ;

But from the first night—and to say it I'm bold—

I have been so damn'd hot, that I'm sure I caught
cold."

Quoth the landlord—"till now, I ne'er had a dispute ;

I've let lodgings ten years ;—I'm a Baker to boot ;

In airing your sheets, Sir, my wife is no sloven ;

And your bed is immediately—over my Oven."

"The Oven!!!" says Will—says the host, "why
this passion ?

In that excellent bed died three people of fashion.

Why so crusty, good, Sir, ?" "Zounds !"—cries

Will, in a taking,

"Who would'nt be crusty, with half a year's baking ?"

WILL paid for his rooms ;—cried the host, with a
sneer

“ Well, I see you’ve been *going away* half a year,”

“ Friend, we can’t well agree”—“ yet no quarrel”—

Will said ;—

“ But I’d rather not *perish*, while you *make your
bread*.” *

* This is the conclusion of all that was originally printed
under the title of “ *My Nightgown and Slippers*.”

THE
KNIGHT AND THE FRIAR.

PART FIRST.

IN our Fifth Harry's reign, when 'twas the fashion
To thump the French, poor creatures ! to excess ;—
Tho' Britons, now a days, show more compassion,
And thump them, certainly, a great deal less ;—

In Harry's reign, when flush'd Lancastrian roses
Of York's pale blossoms had usurp'd the right ; *
As wine drives Nature out of drunkards' noses,
Till red, triumphantly, eclipses white ;—

* Roses were not emblems of faction, cries the Critic, till the reign of Henry the Sixth.....Pooh !...This is a figure, not an anachronism. Suppose, Mr. Critic, you, and all

In Harry's reign—but let me to my song,
Or good king Harry's reign may seem too long.

SIR THOMAS ERPINGHAM, a gallant knight,
When this king Harry went to war, in France,
Girded a sword about his middle ;
Resolving, very lustily, to fight,
And teach the Frenchmen how to dance,
Without a fiddle.

And wond'rous bold Sir Thomas proved in battle,
Performing prodigies with spear and shield ;
His valor, like a murrain among cattle,
Was reckon'd very fatal in the field.

your descendants should be hang'd, although your father died in his bed :...Why then posterity, when talking of your father, may allude to the *family gallows*, which his issue shall have render'd notoriously *symbolical of his House*.

Yet, tho' Sir Thomas had an iron fist,
 He was, at heart, a mild Philanthropist.

Much did he grieve, when making Frenchmen die,
 To any inconvenience to put 'em :
 " It quite distress'd his feelings," he would cry,
 " That he must cut their throats,"——and, then he
 cut 'em.

Thus, during many a Campaign,
 He cut, and grieved, and cut, and came again ;—
 Pitying, and killing ;——
 Lamenting, sorely, for men's souls,
 While pretty little eyelet holes,
 Clean thro' their bodies, he kept drilling :

'Till palling on his Laurels, grown so thick,
 (As boys pull blackberries, 'till they are sick)

Homeward he bent his course, to wreath 'em ;
 And, in his Castle, near fair Norwich town,
 Glutted with glory, he sat down,
 In perfect solitude, beneath 'em.

Now, sitting under Laurels, Heroes say,
 Gives grace, and dignity—and so it may——

When men have done campaigning ;
 But, certainly, these gentlemen must own
 That sitting under Laurels, quite alone,
 Is much more dignified than entertaining.

Pious Æneas, who, in his narration,

Of his own prowess, felt so great a charm ;—

(For, tho' he feign'd great grief in the relation,

He made the story longer than your arm ;*)

Pious Æneas no more pleasure knew

Than did our Knight—who could be pious too—

In telling his exploits, and martial brawls :

But pious *Thomas* had no Dido near him—

No Queen—King, Lord, nor Commoner to hear him—

So he was forced to tell them to the walls :

*.....“ *Quis talia fando*

Temperet a lachrymis ? ”

says Æneas, by way of proem ; yet, for a Hero, tolerably “used to the melting mood,” he talks, on this occasion, much more than he cries ; and, though he begins with a wooden Horse, and gives a general account of the burning of Troy, still the “ *quorum pars magna fui*,” is, evidently, the great in-

And to his Castle walls, in solemn guise,
The knight, full often, did soliloquize ;—

For “ Walls have ears,” Sir Thomas had been told
Yet thought the tedious hours would seem much
shorter,

If, now and then, a tale he could unfold
To ears of flesh and blood, not stone and mortar.

At length, his old *Castellum* grew so dull,
That legions of Blue Devils seized the Knight ;
Megrim invested his belaurell'd skull ;
Spleen laid embargoes on his appetite ;—

ducement to his chattering :.....Accordingly, he keeps up
Queen Dido, to a scandalous late hour, after supper, for the
good folks of Carthage, to tell her an egotistical story, that
occupies two whole books of the *Æneid*.....Oh, these He-
roes !.....I once knew a worthy General...but I won't tell
that story.

Till, thro' the day time, he was haunted, wholly,
By all the imps of "loathed Melancholy!"——

Heaven keep her, and her imps, for ever, from
us !——

And *Incubus, whene'er he went to bed,
Sat on his stomach, like a lump of lead,
Making unseemly faces at Sir Thomas.

Plagues such as these might make a Parson swear :

Sir Thomas, being but a Layman,
Swore, very roundly, *à la militaire*,

Or, rather, (from vexation) like a Drayman :

* Far be it from me to offer a pedantic affront to the Gentlemen who peruse me, by explaining the word *Incubus* : which Pliny, and others, more learnedly, call *Ephialtes* :...I, modestly, state it to mean the *Nightmare*, for the information of the Ladies. The chief symptom, by which this affliction is vulgarly known, is a heavy pressure upon the stomach, when lying in a supine posture, in bed. It would terrify

Damning his Walls, out of all line and level ;
 Sinking his drawbridges, and moats ;
 Wishing that he were cutting throats——
 And they were at the devil.

“What’s to be done,” Sir Thomas said, one day,
 “To drive *Ennui* away ?
 How is the evil to be parried ?
 What can remind me of my former life ?——
 Those happy days I spent in noise, and strife !”
 The last words struck him :——“Zounds” says he,
 “a Wife !”——
 And so he married.

some of my fair readers, who never experienced this characteristic of the *Incubus*, were I to dwell on its effects ; and it would irritate others, who are in the habit of laboring under its sensations.

Muse ! regulate your pace ;—

Restrain, awhile, your frisking, and your giggling !

Here is a stately Lady in the case ;—

We mustn't now, be fidgetting, and niggling.

O God of Love ! Urchin of spite and play !

Deserter, oft, from saffron Hymen's quarters ;

His torch bedimming, as thou runn'st away,

Till half his Votaries become his Martyrs !

Sly, wandering God ! whose frolic arrows pass

Thro' hearts of Potentates, and Prentice boys ;

Whomark'st, with Milkmaids' forms, the tell tale grass,

And makest the fruitful Prude repent her joys !

Drop me one feather, from thy wanton wing,

Young God of dimples ! in thy roguish flight !

And let thy Poet catch it, now, to sing,

The beauty of the Dame, who won the Knight !

Her beauty !—but Sir Thomas's own Sonnet

Beats all that I can say upon it.

* SIR THOMAS ERPINGHAM'S

SONNET,

ON HIS LADY.

/

SUCH *starlike* lustre lights her *Eyes*,
They must have darted from a *Sphere*,
Our duller *System* to surprise,
Outshining all the *Planets* here ;
And, having wander'd from their wonted place,
Fix in the wond'rous *Heaven* of her *Face*.

* An old Gentlewoman, a great admirer of the *Black
Letter*, (as many *old Gentlewomen* are) presented the Author
of these Tales with the *Original M. S.* of this Sonnet ; advising
the publication of a *fac simile* of the Knight's hand writing.
It is painful, after this, to advance, that the Sonnet, so far from
being genuine, is *one* of the clumsiest literary forgeries, that
the present times have witnessed. It appears, in this authentic
Story, that Sir Thomas Erpingham was married in the reign of
Henry the Fifth ; and it is, evidently, intended, that *Modern*

The modest *Rose*, whose blushes speak

The ardent kisses of the Sun,

Off'ring a tribute to her *Cheek*,

Droops, to perceive its *Tint* outdone ;

Then withering with envy, and despair,

Dies on her *Lips*, and leaves its *Fragrance* there.

should believe he writ these love verses almost immediately after his marriage...not only from the ardor with which he celebrates the beauty of his Wife, but from the circumstance of a man writing any love verses upon his wife, at all :...But the style, and language of the lines, are most glaringly inconsistent with their pretended date. The fact is, we have, here, foisted upon us, a close *imitation* of COWLEY, (*vide the MISTRESS*) who was not *born* till the year 1618...two centuries after the *Æra* in question. Chaucer died A. D. 1400 ; and Henry the Fifth (who was King only 9 years, 5 months, and 11 days) began his reign scarcely 13 years after the death of that Poet. Sir Thomas, then, must, at least, have written in the obsolete phraseology of Chaucer...and, probably, would have imitated him...as did Lidgate, Occleve, and others :...Nay, Harding, Skelton, &c. who were, fifty or sixty years

Ringlets, that to her *Breast* descend,
Increase the beauties they *invade* ;
 Thus branches in luxuriance bend,
 To grace the *lovely Hills* they shade ;
 And, thus, the glowing *Climate* did entice
 Tendrils to curl, unpruned, o'er *Paradise*.

subsequent to Chaucer, were not so modern in their language, as their celebrated predecessor. Having, *in few words*, proved (it is presumed) this Sonnet to be spurious, an apology may be thought necessary for not saying *a great deal more* ;... but this Herculean task is left, in deference, to the disputants on *Vortigern* ; who will, doubtless, engage in it, as a matter of great importance, and, once more, lay the world under *very heavy obligations*, with various *Pamphlets in Folio*, upon the subject :...and, surely, too many acknowledgments cannot be given to men who are so indefatigably generous in their researches, that half the result of them, when publish'd, causes even the sympathetic reader to labor as much as the Writer !

How ungratefully did Pope say !...

" There, dim in clouds, the poring Scholiasts mark,
 Wits, who, like owls, see only in the dark ;
 A lumberhouse of books in every head ;
 For ever reading, never to be read !" ... *Dunciad*.

Sir Thomas having closed his lovesick strain,
Come, buxom Muse ! and let us frisk again !

Close to a Chapel, near the Castle gates,
Dwelt certain Stickers in the Devil's skirts ;
Who, with prodigious fervor, shave their pates,
And show a most religious scorn for shirts.

Their House's sole Endowment was our Knight's :—
Thither an Abbot, and twelve Friars, retreating,
Conquer'd, sage, pious men ! their appetites,
With that infallible specific, eating.

'Twould seem, since tenanted by holy Friars,
That Peace, and Harmony, reign'd here eternally ;—
Whoever told you so were cursed liars ;—
The holy Friars quarrell'd most infernally.

Not a day past

Without some schism, among these heavenly lodgers;

But, none of their dissensions seem'd to last

So long as Friar John's, and Friar Roger's.

I have been very accurate in my researches,

And find this Convent (truce with *whys* and *howes*)

Kept in a constant ferment, with the rows

Of these two, quarrelsome, fat sons of Churches.

But when Sir Thomas went to his devotions,

Proceeding thro' their Cloister, with his Bride,

You never could have dream'd of their commotions,

The stiff rump'd rascals look'd so sanctified :

And it became the custom of the Knight

To go to matins every day ;—

He jogg'd his Bride, as soon as it was light,

Crying, “ my dear, 'tis time for us to pray.”—

This custom he establish'd, very soon,

After his honeymoon.

Wives of this age might think his zeal surprising ;

But much his pious Lady did it please,

To see her Husband, every morning, rising.

And going, instantly, upon his knees.

Never, I ween,

In any person's recollection,

Was such a couple seen,

For genuflection !

Making as great a drudgery of prayer

As humble Curates are obliged to do—

Whose labor, woe the while ! scarce buys them
cassocks ;—

And, every morning, whether foul or fair,

Sir Thomas and the Dame were in their pew,
Crawthumping, upon hassocks.

It could not otherwise befall

(Sir Thomas, and his Wife, this course persuing)

But that the Lady, affable to all,

Should greet the Friars, on her way

To matins, as she met them, every day,

Good morninging, and how d'ye doing :

Now nodding to this Friar, now to that,
 As thro' the Cloister she was wont to trip ;
 Stopping, sometimes, to have a little chat,
 On casual topics, with the holy brothers ;—
 So condescending was her Ladyship,
 To Roger, John, and all the others.

All this was natural enough,
 To any female of urbanity ;—
 But holy men are made of as frail stuff
 As all the lighter sons of Vanity !—

And, these, her Ladyship's chaste condescensions,
 In Friar John bred damnable desire ;
 Heteredox, unclean intentions ;
 Abominable in a Friar !

Whene'er the greeted him, his gills grew red ;
 While she was quite unconscious of the matter ;—
 But he, the beast ! was casting sheeps eyes at her,
 Out of his bullock head.

That coxcombs *were* and *are*, I need not give,
 Nor take the trouble, now, to prove ;
 Nor that those dead, like many, now, who live,
 Have thought a Lady's condescension, love.

This happen'd, with fat Friar John ;—
 Monastic Coxcomb ! amorous, and gummy !—
 Fill'd with conceit, up to his very brim !—
 He thought his guts and garbage doated on,
 By a fair Dame, whose Husband was to *him*
 Hyperion to a mummy.

Burning with flames the Lady never knew,
 Hotter, and heavier, than toasted cheese,
 He sent her a much warmer *billet doux*
 Than Abelard e'er writ to Eloïse.

But whether Friar John's fat shape and face,
 Tho' pleading both together,
 Were sorry advocates, in such a case ;—
 Or, whether
 He marr'd his hopes, by suffering his pen
 With too much fervor to display 'em ;
 As very tender Nurses, now and then,
 Cuddle their Children 'till they overlay 'em ;—

'Twas plain, his pray'r to decorate the brows
 Of good Sir Thomas was so far from granted,
 That the Dame went, directly, to her spouse,
 And told him what the filthy Friar wanted.

Think, Reader ! think ! if thou hast ta'en, for life,
 A partner to thy bed, for worse or better,
 Think what Sir Thomas felt, when his chaste wife
 Brandish'd, before his eyes, the Friar's letter !

He felt, Sir—Zounds !——

Yes, Zounds, I say, Sir—for it makes me swear—
 More torture than he suffer'd from the wounds
 He got, among the French, in France ;—
 Not that I take upon me to advance
 The knight was ever wounded there.

Think gravely, Sir, I pray ;—fancy the knight—
 ('Tis quite a Picture)—with his heart's delight !
 Fancy you see his virtuous Lady stand,
 Holding the Friar's foulness in her hand !—

How should Sir Thomas, Sir, behave ?
 Why bounce, and sputter, surely, like a squib :—
 You would have done the same, Sir, if a knave,
 A frowzy Friar, meddled with your Rib.

His bosom almost burst with ire,
 Against the Friar !

Rage gave his face an apoplectic hue ;
 His cheeks turn'd purple, and his nose turn'd blue ;
 He swore with this mock Saint, he'd soon be even ;
 He'd have him flay'd, like Saint Bartholomew ;—
 And, now again, he'd have him stoned, like Stephen.

But, “ *Ira furor brevis est,*”

As Horace, quaintly, has express'd ;—

Therefore the knight, finding his foam and froth
 Work thro' the bunghole of his mouth, like beer,
 Pull'd out the ventpeg of his wrath,
 To let the stream of his revenge run clear :

Debating, with himself, what mode might suit him,
 To trounce the rogue who wanted to cornute him.

First, an attack against his Foe he plann'd,
 Learn'd in the Field, where late he fought, so felly ;
 That is—to march up, bravely, sword in hand,
 And run the Friar thro' his holy belly.

At last, his better judgment did declare—
 Seeing his honor would as little shine
 By sticking Friars as by killing swine—
 'To circumvent him, by a *ruse de guerre* :

And, as the project ripen'd in his head,
 'Thus to his virtuous Wife he said :—

“ Now sit thee down, my Lady bright !
 And list thy Lord's desire ;
 An assignation thou shalt write,
 Beshrew me ! to the Friar.

Aread him, at the midnight hour,
 In silent sort to go,
 And bide thy coming, in the Bower—
 For there do Crabsticks grow.

He shall not tarry long ;—for why ?
 When *Twelve* have striking done,
 Then, by the God of Gardens !* I
 Will cudgel him till *One*.”

* If the Knight knew the aptness, in its full extent, of his oath, upon this occasion, we must give him more credit for his reading than we are willing to allow to military men of the age in which he flourish'd :...for, observe : He vows to *cudgel* a man lurking to *rob* his Lady of her Virtue, in a *bower* ;...how appropriately, therefore, does he swear by the *God of the Gardens* ! who is represented with a kind of *cudgel* (*falx lignea*) in his right hand ; and is, moreover, furnish'd with another weapon of formidable dimensions, (Horace calls it *Palus*, for the express purpose of annoying *Robbers*.

“ *Fures dextra coercet,
 Obscuroque ruber porrectus ab inguine Palus.*”

The Lady wrote just what Sir Thomas told her ;
 For, it is no less strange than true,
 That Wives did, once, what Husbands bid them do ;
 Lord ! how this World improves, as we grow older !

She named the midnight hour ;—
 Telling the Friar to repair
 To the sweet, secret Bower ;—
 But not a word of any crabsticks there.

It must be confess'd that the last mention'd attribute of this Deity was stretch'd forth to promote pleasure, in some instances, instead of fear ;...for it was a sportive custom, in the hilarity of recent marriages, to seat the Bride upon his *Palus* ;...but this circumstance by no means disproves its efficacy as a dread to Robbers ; on the contrary, that implement must have been peculiarly terrific, which could sustain the weight of so many Brides, without detriment to its firmness, or elasticity.

Thus have I seen a liquorish, black rat,

Lured by the Cook, to sniff, and smell her bacon ;

And, when he's eager for a bit of fat,

Down goes a trap upon him, and he's taken.

A tiny Page—for, formerly, a boy

Was a mere dunce who did not understand

The doctrines of Sir Pandarus, of Troy.

Slipp'd the Dame's note into the Friar's hand,

As he was walking in the cloister ;

And, then, slipp'd off—as silent as an oyster.

The Friar read ;—the Friar chuckled :—

For, now the Farce's unities were right :

Videlicet—The Argument, a Cuckold ;

The Scene, a Bow'r ; Time, Twelve o'clock, at night.

Blithe was fat John !—and dreading no mishap,
 Stole, at the hour appointed, to the *trap* ;
 But, so perfumed, so musk'd, for the occasion—
 His *tribute* to the nose so like *invasion*—
 You would have sworn, to smell him, 'twas no rat,
 But a dead, putrified, old civet cat.

He reach'd the spot, anticipating blisses,
 Soft murmurs, melting sighs, and burning kisses,
 Trances of joy, and mingling of the souls ;
 When, whack ! Sir Thomas hit him on the jowls.

Now, on his head it came, now on his face,
 His neck and shoulders, arms, legs, breast and back ;
 In short, on almost every place
 We read of in the Almanac.

Blows rattled on him thick as hail ;

Making him rue the day that he was born ;—

Sir Thomas plied his cudgel like a flail,

And thrash'd as if he had been thrashing corn.

At length, a thump—(painful the facts, alas !

Truth urges us Historians to relate !)—

Took Friar John so smart athwart the pate,

It acted like a perfect *coup de grace*.

Whether it was a random shot,

Or aim'd maliciously—tho' Fame says *not*—

Certain his soul (the Knight so crack'd his crown)

Fled from his body ; but which way it went,

Or whether Friars souls fly up, or down,

Remains a matter of nice argument.

Points so abstruse I dare not dwell upon ;
 Enough, for me, his body is not gone ;—

For I have business, still, in my narration,
 With the fat carcase of this holy porpus ;
 And Death, tho' sharp in his Administration,
 Never suspended such a *Habeas Corpus*.

END OF PART I.

THE
KNIGHT AND THE FRIAR.

PART THE SECOND.

READER ! if you have Genius, you'll discover,
Do what you will to keep it cool,
It, now and then, in spite of you, boils over,
Upon a fool.

Haven't you (lucky man if *not*) been vex'd,
Worn, fretted, and perplex'd,
By a pert, busy, would be clever knave,
A forward, empty, self sufficient slave ?

And haven't you, all christian patience gone,

At last, put down the puppy, with your wit ;—

On whom it seem'd, tho' you had Mines of it,

Extravagance to spend a jest upon ?—

And haven't you, (I'm sure you have, my friend !)

When you have laid the puppy low—

All little pique, and malice, at an end,

Been sorry for the blow ?—

And said, (if witty, so would say your Bard)

“ Damn it ! I hit that meddling fool too hard ! ”

Thus did the brave Sir Thomas say ;--

Whose Genius didn't much disturb his pate :

It, rather, in his bones, and muscles, lay--

Like many other mens' of good estate :

Thus did Sir Thomas say ;—and well he might,

When pity to resentment did succeed ;

For, certainly, (tho' not with *wit*) the Knight,

Had hit the Friar very hard, indeed !

And heads, nineteen in twenty, 'tis confessed,

Can feel a crabstick sooner than a jest.

There was, in the Knight's family, a man

Cast in the roughest mould Dame Nature boasts ;

With shoulders wider than a dripping pan,

And legs as thick, about the calves, as posts.

All the domestics, viewing, in this hulk,

So large a specimen of Nature's whims,

With kitchen wit, allusive to his bulk,

Had christen'd him the Duke of Limbs.

Thro'out the Castle, every whippersnapper
 Was canvassing the merits of this strapper :
 Most of the Men voted his size alarming ;
 But all the Maids, *nem. con.* declared it charming !

This wight possess'd a quality most rare ;—
 I tremble when I mention it, I swear !

Lest pretty Ladies question my veracity :
 'Twas—when he had a secret in his care,
 To keep it, with the greatest pertinacity.

Pour but a secret in him, and 'twould glue him
 Like rosin, on a wellcork'd bottle's snout ;
 Had twenty devils come with corkscrews to him,
 They never could have screw'd the secret out.

Now, when Sir Thomas, in the dark, alone,

Had kill'd a Friar, weighing twenty stone,

Whose carcase must be hid, before the dawn,

Judging he might as hopelessly desire

To move a Convent as the Friar,

He thought on this man's secrecy, and brawn ;—

And, like a swallow, o'er the lawn he skims,

Up to the Cockloft of the Duke of Limbs :

Where Somnus, son of Nox, the humble copy

Of his own daughter Mors,* had made assault

On the Duke's eyelids—not with juice of poppy,

But potent draughts, distill'd from hops, and malt.

* There is a terrible jumble in Somnus's family. He was the Son of Nox, by Erebus ;...and Erebus, according to different accounts, was not only Nox's husband, but her brother...and even her son, by Chaos :...and Mors was daughter of Somnus, by that devil of a Goddess Nox, the mother of his father, and himself !...The heathen Deities held our ca-

Certainly, nothing operates much quicker
 Against two persons secret dialogues,
 Than one of them being asleep in liquor,
 Snoring like twenty thousand hogs.

Yet circumstance did, pressingly, require
 The Knight to tell his tale ;
 And to instruct his Man, knock'd down with ale,
 That he (Sir Thomas) had knock'd down a Friar.

How wake a man in such a case ?
 Sir, the best method—I have tried a score—
 Is, when his nose is playing thoro' bass,
 To pull it, till you make him roar

nonical notions in utter contempt ; and must have laugh'd at
 the idea (which, surely, nobody does know) of forbidding
 a man to marry his Grandmother,

A Sleeper's nose is made on the same plan

As the small wire 'twixt a Doll's wooden thighs ;
 For pull the nose, or wire, the Doll, or Man,
 Will open, in a minute, both their eyes.

This mode Sir Thomas took—and, in a trice,
 Grasp'd, with his thumb and finger, like a vice,
 That feature which the human face embosses,
 And pull'd the Duke of Limbs by the proboscis.

The Man awoke, and goggled on his master ;—

He saw his Master goggling upon him ;—

Fresh from concluding on a Friar's nob,

What Coroners would call an awkward job,

He glared, all horror struck and grim—

Paler than Paris plaister !

His hair stuck up, like bristles on a pig ;—

So Garrick look'd, when he perform'd Macbeth ;
Who, ere he enter'd after Duncan's death,
Rumpled his wig.

The Knight cried, “ Follow me ! ”——with strange
grimaces ;

The Man arose—

And began “ sacrificing to the Graces, * ”
By putting on his clothes ;

* *Vide* Lord Chesterfield's Letters.... This noble Author, by the bye, has set his dignified face against risibility. It would be well for us poor devils, who call ourselves Comic Writers, if our efforts were always as successful in raising a *Laugh*, as his Lordship's censure upon it.

But he reversed, in making himself smart,

A Scotchman's toilet, altogether :

And merely clapp'd a cover on that part

The Highlanders expose to wind and weather.

'They reach'd the bower where the Friar lay :

When, to his Man,

The Knight began,

In doleful accents, thus to say :

“ Here a fat Friar lies, kill'd with a mawling,

For coming, in the dark, a catterwauling ;

Whom I (O cursed spite !) did lay so !”

Thus, solemnly, Sir Thomas spake, and sigh'd ;—

'To whom the Duke of Limbs replied—

“ Odrabbit it ! Sir Thomas ! you don't say so !”

Then, taking the hugh Friar *per* the hocks,
 He whirl'd the ton of blubber three times round,
 And swung it on his shoulders, from the ground,
 With strength that yields, in any age, to no man's,
 Tho' Milo's ghost should rise, bearing the Ox
 He carried at the games of the old Romans.

Nay, I opine—let Fame say what it can—
 Of ancient vigor, (Fame is, oft, a Liar)
 That Milo was a pigmy to this Man,
 And his fat Ox quite skinny to the Friar.

Besides—I hold it much in doubt
 If Roman graz'ers (should the truth come out)

Were, like the English, knowing in the matter ;—

—I wouldn't breed my beast *more Romano* ;

For, I suspect, in fatt'ning they were dull,

And when they made an ox out of a bull,

They fed him ill—and, then, he got no fatter

Than a fat opera *Soprano*.*

Over the moat, (the drawbridge being down)

Gallantly stalk'd the brawny Duke of Limbs,

Fearing *Johannes*, of the shaven crown,

Famed, when alive, for spoiling maids, and hymns ;

For mangling *Pater Nosters*, and goosepies,

And telling sundry beads—and sundry lies.

* I am aware that much has been said, of old, relative to the "*cura boum*," and the "*optuma torvæ forma bovis* ;" ...but, for a show of cattle, I would back Smithfield, or most of our English market Towns, against any *forum boarium*, of the Romans.

Across a marsh he strode, with steadier gait,
 Than Satan trod the Syrtis, at his fall,
 And perch'd himself, with his monastic weight,
 Upon the Convent garden's wall ;—

Whence, on the grounds within it, as he gazed,
 To find a spot where he might leave his load,
 He 'spied a *House* so *little*, it seem'd raised
 Not for Man's visits, than his fix'd abode ;—
 And Cynthia aided him to gaze his fill,
 For, now, she sought Endymion, on the hill.

Arise, Tarquinius ! * show thy lofty face !
 While I describe, with dignity, the place.

* *Tarquinius Superbus*, the last King of Rome ;...he was a
 haughty Monarch, and built the *Cloaca maxima*.

Snug, in an English garden's shadiest spot,

A Structure stands, and welcomes many a breeze ;

Lonely, and simple as a Ploughman's cot,

Where Monarch's may unbend, who wish for ease.

There sit Philosophers ; and sitting read :

And to some end apply the dullest pages ;

And pity the Barbarians, north of Tweed,

Who scout these fabrics of the southern Sages.

Sure, for an Edifice in estimation,

Never was any less presuming seen !

It shrinks, so modestly, from observation !

And hides behind all sorts of evergreen ;—

Like a coy Maid, design'd for filthy Man,

Peeping, at his approach, behind her fan.

Into this place, unnoticed by beholders,
The Duke of Limbs, most circumspectly, stole,
And shot the Friar off his shoulders,
Just like a sack of round Newcastle coal :

Not taking any pains,
Nor caring, in the least,
How he deposited the Friar's remains,
No more than if a Friar were a beast.

No funeral, of which you ever heard,
Was mark'd with ceremonies half so slight ;
For John was left not like, the dead interr'd,
But like the living, sitting bolt upright !

Has no shrewd Reader, of one sex or t'other,
 Recurring to the facts, already, stated,
 Thought on a certain Roger ?—that same brother
 Who hated John, and whom John hated ?

'Tis, now, a necessary thing to say
 That, at this juncture, Roger wasn't well ;
 Poor Man ! he had been rubbing, all the day,
 His stomach with coarse towels ;
 And clapping trenchers, hot as hell,
 Upon his bowels ;
 Where spasms were kicking up a furious frolic,
 Afflicting him with mulligrubs, and colick.

He, also, had imbibed, to sooth his pains,
 Of *pulvis rhei* very many grains ;

And to the garden's deepest shade was bent,
To give, quite privily, his sorrows vent :

When, *there*—alive and merry to appearance—

He 'spied his ancient foe, by the moon's light !—
Who sat erect, with so much perseverance,
It look'd as if he kept his post in spite.

A case it is of piteous distress

If, carrying a secret grief about,
We wish to bury it, in a recess,
And find another there, who keeps us out.

Expecting, soon, his enemy to go,
Roger, at first, walk'd to an fro,

With tolerably tranquil paces ;
 But finding John determined to remain,
 Roger, each time he pass'd, thro' spite, or pain,
 Made, at his adversary, hideous faces.

How Misery will lower human pride !

And make us buckle !—

Roger, who, all his life, had John defied,
 Was now obliged to speak him fair—and truckle.

“ Behold me,” Roger cried, “ behold me, John !

Intreating as a *favor* you'll be gone ;

Me ! your sworn foe, tho' fellow lodger ;

Me !—who, in agony, tho' suing now to you,

Would, once, have seen you damn'd ere make a bow to
 you,

Me—Roger !*”

* This is a palpable plagiarism. *Rolla* thus addresses *Pizarro* : “ *Behold me*, at thy feet...*Me...Rolla !...Me*, that never

To this address, so fraught with the pathetic,
 John remain'd dumb, as a Pythagorean ;
 Seeming to hint, " Roger, you're a plebeian Peri-
 patetick."

When such choice oratory has not hit,
 When it is, e'en, unanswer'd by a grunt,
 'Twould justify tame Job to curse a bit,
 And set an Angler swearing, in his punt.

Choleric Roger could not brook it ;—
 So seeing a huge brick bat, up he took it ;

yet have bent or *bow'd*...., in humble *agony* I *sue* to you."....
 The theft is more glaring, as the Apostrophe, both here, and
 in the original, occurs in the midst of a strong incident, and
 is address'd to an Enemy by a proud spirit, in very moving
 circumstances.

And aiming, like a marksman at a crow,
 Plump on the breast he hit his deadly foe ;
 Who fell, like Pedants' periods, to the ground—
 Very inanimate, and very round.

Here is another Picture, reader mine !—
 I gave you one in the first Canto ;*—
 This is more solemn, mystical, and fine—
 Like something in the Castle of Otranto.

Bring, bring me, now, a Painter, for the work,
 Who on the subject will, with furor, rush !
 Some Artist who can sup upon raw pork,
 To make him dream of horrors, for his brush !

**Vide* Part I, page 67, four first lines.

Come, Limners, come ! who choke your house's entry
 With dear, unmeaning lumber, from your easels ;
 Dull heads of the Nobility, and Gentry ;
 Full lengths of fubsey Belles, or Beaux like weasels !

Come, Limners, hither come ! and draw
 A finer incident than e'er ye saw !

Here is a John, by moon light, (a fat Monk)
 Lying stone *dead* ; and, here, a Roger, *quick* !
 And, over John, stands Roger, in a funk,
 Supposing he has kill'd him, with a brick !

There, Painters ! there !
 Now, by Apelles's gamboge, I swear !

Such a dead subject never comes,
 Among those *lifeless living* ye display ;
 Then, thro' your palettes thrust your graphic thumbs,
 And work away !

Seeing John dead as a door nail,
 Roger began to wring his hands, and wail ;
 Calling himself, Beast, Butcher, cruel Turk !
 Thrice "*Benedicite !*" he mutter'd ;
 Thrice, in the eloquence of grief, he utter'd,
 "I've done a pretty job of journey work !

Some people will show symptoms of repentance
 When Conscience, like a chastening Angel, smites
 'em ;
 Some from mere dread of the Law's sentence,
 When Newgate, like the very Devil, frights 'em :—

That Virtue's struggles, in the heart, denotes,
This Vice's hints, to men's left ears, and throats.

Now Roger's conscience, it appears,
 Was not, by half, so lively as his fears,

His breast, soon after he was born,
 Grew like an Hostler's lanthorn, at an Inn ;--
 All the circumference was dirty horn,
 And feebly blink'd the ray of warmth within.

In short, for one of his religious function,
 His conscience was both cowardly and callous ;
 No melting Cherub whisper'd to't " Compunction !"
 But grim Jack Ketch disturb'd it, crying " Gallows !"

And all his sorrow, for this deed abhorr'd,
Was nothing but antipathy to *cord*.

A padlock'd door stood in the garden wall,
Where John, by Roger's brickbat, chanced to fall,
And Roger had a key that could undo it ;
Thro' this same door, at any time of day,
They brought, into the Convent, corn, and hay ;——
Sometimes, at dusk, a pretty girl came thro' it :
Just to confess herself, to some grave codger ;
Perhaps, she came to John—perhaps, to Roger.

Out at this portal Roger made a shift
To lug his worst of foes ;
For, seizing (as the gout was wont) his toes,
He dragg'd the load he couldn't lift.

Achilles, thus, drew round the Trojan plain,
The ten years' Adversary he had slain.—

Yet—for I scorn a Grecian to disparage—

Achilles in more style, and splendor, did it ;
He sported Murder strapp'd behind his carriage—
But *bourgeois* Roger sneak'd on foot, and hid it,

Roger, however, labor'd on—

Puffing, and tugging ;—

And hauling John,

As fishermen, on shore, haul up a boat ;—

Till, after a great deal of lugging,

He lugg'd him to the edge of the Knight's moat ;

And stuck him up so straight upon his rear,
Touching, almost the water, with his heels,
That the defunct might pass, not seen too near,
For some fat gentleman who bobb'd for eels.

Swiftly did Roger, then, retrace his ground,
Lighter than he came out, by many a pound.

So have I seen, on Marlborough downs, a hack,
Eased of a great man's chaise, and coming back,
From Bladud's springs, upon the western road ;
No bloated Noble's luggage at his rump,
Whose doom's, that dread of pickpockets, the pump,
He canters home, from Bath, without his load.

Sir Thomas being scrupulous, and queasy,
 Could'nt, in all this interval, be easy.

He went to bed ;—and, there, began to burn ;
 Nine times he turn'd, in wond'rous perturbation ;—
 He woke her Ladyship, at every turn—
 And gave her, full nine times, complete vexation.

To seek the Duke of Limbs, at length, he rose,
 And prowld with him, lamenting Fortune's stripes ;
 Now in the rookery, among the crows,
 Now squashing in the marsh, among the snipes :

Wishing strange wishes ;—among many,
 He wish'd—ere he had clapp'd his eyes on any,

All Priests, and Crabsticks, thrown into the fire ;—
 Or, seeing Providence, ordain'd it so,
 That Priest, and Crabstick, (to his grief) must grow,
 He wish'd stout Crabstick couldn't kill fat Friar.

Men's wishes will be partial, now and then ;—
 As, in this case, 'tis plainly seen ;
 Wherein, Sir Thomas, full of spleen,
 Wish'd to burn all the Crabs, and Clergymen.

Think ye that *he*—at wishing tho' a dab—
 To wish such harm to any *Knight* would urge ye ?
 Yet he, a Knight, had taken up a Crab,
 And thump'd to death, with it, one of the Clergy.

As he went wishing on,
 With the great Duke of Limbs behind him—
 Horror on horror!—he saw John,
 Where least of all he ever thought to find him!

Stuck up, an end, in placid grace,
 Like a stuff'd Kangaroo—tho' vastly fatter—
 With the full moon upon his chubby face,
 Like a brass potlid, shining on a platter.

“'Sdeath!” quoth the Knight, of half his powers bereft,
 Didst thou not tell me *where* this Friar was left?

Men rise again, to *push us from our stools!**
 To which the Duke replied, with steady phiz—
 “Them as took pains to push that Friar from *his*,
 At such a time o'night, was cursed fools.”

* Shakespeare, certainly, borrow'd this expression from Sir Thomas... See *Macbeth*.

“ Ah !” sigh’d Sir Thomas, “ while I wander here,

By Fortune stamp’d a Homicide, alas !”—

(And, as he spoke, a penitential tear

Mingled with Heaven’s dewdrops, on the grass ;)—

“ Will no one from my eyes yon Spectre pull ?”

“ Sir Thomas,” said the Duke of Limbs, “ I wool.”

He would have thrown the garbage in the moat,

But the Knight told him, fat was prone to float.

The Lout, at length, having bethought him,

Heaved up the Friar on his back once more ;

And (Castles having armories, of yore)

Into the Knight’s old Armory he brought him.

Among the gorgeous, shining Coats of Mail,
 That graced the walls, on high, in gallant show—
 As pewter pots, in houses fam'd for ale,
 Glitter, above the Bar maid, in a row—

A curious, antique suit was hoarded,
 Cover'd with dust ;
 Which had, for many years, afforded
 An iron dinner to that ostrich, Rust.

Though this was all too little—in a minute,
 The Duke of Limbs rann'd the fat Friar in it ;—
 So a good Housewife takes a narrow skin,
 To make black puddings, and stuffs hog's meat in.

The Knight, who saw this ceremony pass,
 Inquired the meaning ; when the Duke did say—
 “ I'll tie him on ould Dumpling, that's at grass,
 And turn him out, a top of the highway.”

This Steed—who, now, it seems, was grazing—
 In the French wars, had often borne the Knight ;
 His symmetry beyond the power of praising,
 And prouder than Bucephalus, in fight !

Once, how he paw'd the ground, and snuff'd the gale !
 Uncropp'd his ears, undock'd his flowing tail ;
 No blemish was within him, nor without him ;
 Perfect he was in every part ;——
 No barbarous Farrier, with infernal art,
 Had mutilated the least bit about him.

Of high Arabian pedigree,

Father of many four foot babes was he ;

And sweet, hoof'd Beauties, still, would he be rump-
ling ;

But counting five and twenty, from his birth,

At grass for life, unwieldy in the girth,

He had obtain'd, alas ! the name of Dumpling.

Now, at the postern, stood the gay old Charger ;

Saddled, and housed—in full caparison !

Now on his back—no rider larger—

Upright, and stiff, and tied with cords, sat John :

Arm'd cap-à-piè, completely, like a Knight,

Going to fight.

A Lance was in the rest, of stately beech ;

Nothing was wanting, but a Page, or 'Squire ;—

The Duke, with thistles, switch'd old Dumpling's breech ;

And off he clatter'd, with the martial Friar.

Now, in the convent let us take a peep—

Where Roger, like Sir Thomas, couldn't sleep :

Instead of finging requiems, and psalms,

For fat John's soul, he had been seized with qualms ;

Thinking it would be rash to tarry there ;—

And, having, prudently, resolved on flight,

Knock'd up a neighb'ring Miller, in the night,

And borrow'd his grey Mare.

Thus, trotting off—beneath a row of trees,

He saw a sight that made his marrow freeze !—

A furious Warrior follow'd him, in mail,

Upon a charger, close at his Mare's tail !

He cross'd himself !—and, canting, cried,

Oh, sadly have I sinned !—

Then stuck his heels in his Mare's side ;—

And, then, old Dumpling whinny'd !

Roger whipp'd, and Roger spurr'd,

Distilling drops of fear !

But while he spurr'd, still, still he heard,

The wanton Dumpling at his rear.

'Twas dawn ;—he look'd behind him, in the chace ;

When, lo ! the features of fat John—

His beaver up, and pressing on—

Glared, ghastly, in the wretched Roger's face !

The Miller's mare, who oft had gone the way,
 Sca mper'd with Roger, into Norwich town ;
 And, there, to all the market folks' dismay,
 Old Dumpling beat the mare, with Roger, down.

Brief let me be ;—the Story soon took air ;—
 For Townsmen are inquisitive, of course,
 When a live Monk rides in upon a Mare,
 Chased by a dead one, arm'd, upon a Horse.

Sir Thomas up to London sped, full fast,
 To beg his life, and lands, of Royal Harry ;
 And, for his services, in Gallia, past,
 His suit did not miscarry :—
 For, in those days—thank Heaven they are mended !—
 Kings hang'd poor Rogues, while rich ones were be-
 friended.

YE CRITICKS, and ye HYPERCRITICKS !—who
Have deign'd (in reading this my story thro')

A patient, or impatient, ear to lend me—
If, as I humbly amble, ye complain
I give my Pegasus too loose a rein,
'Tis time to call *my Betters*, to defend me.

Come, SWIFT ! who made so merry with the Nine ;
With thy far bolder Muse, Oh ! shelter mine !

When she is styled a slattern, and a trollop ;—
Force stubborn Gravity to doff his gloom ;
Point to thy Cælia, and thy Dressing Room,
Thy Nymph at bedtime, and thy famed Mawwallop !

Come STERNE !—whose prose, with all a Poet's art,
Tickles the fancy, while it melts the heart !—

Since at apologies I ne'er was handy—
 Come, while fastidious Readers run me hard,
 And screen, sly playful wag! a hapless Bard,
 Behind one volume of thy Tristram Shandy !

Ye Two, alone!—tho' I could bring a score
 Of brilliant names, and high examples, more—

Plead for me, when 'tis said I misbehave me !
 And, *Ye, sour Censors!* in your crabbed fits,
 Who will not let them rescue me as *Wits*,
 Prithee, as *Parsons*, suffer 'em to save me !

THE
ELDER BROTHER.

CENTRICK, in London noise, and London follies,
Proud Covent Garden blooms, in smoky glory ;
For chairmen, coffeerooms, piazzas, dollies,
Cabbages, and comedians, famed in story !

On this gay spot, (upon a sober plan)
Dwelt a right regular, and staid, young man ;---
Much did he early hours, and quiet love ;
And was entitled Mr. Isaac Shove.

An Orphan he ;—yet rich in expectations,
 (Which nobody seem'd likely to supplant)
 From, that prodigious *bore*, of all relations,
 A fusty, canting, stiff-rump'd Maiden Aunt :
 The wealthy Miss Lucretia Cloghorthy—
 Who had brought Isaac up, and *own'd* to forty.

Shove on this maiden's Will relied securely ;
 Who vow'd she ne'er would wed, to mar his riches ;
 Full often would she say, of Men, demurely—
 “ I can't abide the filthy things in breeches ! ”

He had Apartments up two pair of stairs ;
 On the first floor lodged Doctor Crow ;—
 The Landlord was a torturer of hairs,
 And made a grand display of wigs, below ;
 From the beau's Brutus, to the parson's grizzle :—
 Over the doorway was his name ;—'twas Twizzle.

Now, you must know,

This Doctor Crow

Was not of Law, nor Music, nor Divinity ;—

He was *obstetric* ;—but, the fact is,

He didn't in Lucina's *turnpike* practice ;

He took *byeroads*—reducing Ladies' shapes,

Who had secured themselves from leading apes,

But kept the reputation of virginity.

Crow had a roomy tenement of brick,

Inclosed with walls, one mile from Hyde Park corner ;

Fir trees, and yews, were planted round it, thick ;—

No situation was *forlorn* !*

Yet, notwithstanding folks might scout it,

It suited qualmish Spinsters, who fell sick,

And didn't wish the world to know about it.

* This seems to be a *new comparative* ; for which the Author takes to himself due credit :...Novelty being scarce, in poetical compositions.

Here many a single gentlewoman came,

Pro tempore—full tender of her fame !

Who, for a while, took leave of friends in town—

“ Business, forsooth ! to Yorkshire call’d her
down,

Too weighty to be settled by Attorney !”—

And, in a month’s or six week’s time, came back ;

When every body cried, “ Good lack !

How monstrous *thin* you’ve grown, upon your
journey !”

The Doctor, knowing that a puff of Scandal

Would blow his private trade to tatters,

Dreaded to give the smallest handle

To those who dabble in their neighbors’ matters ;

Therefore, he, wisely, held it good

To hide his practice from the neighborhood ;—

And not appear, there, as a resident ;

But merely one who, casually, went

To see the lodgers, in the large brick house !—

To lounge, and chat, not minding time a souse ;—

Like one to whom all business was quite foreign ;—

And, thus, he visited his female sick ;

Who lay as thick,

Within his tenement of brick,

As rabbits in a warren.

He lodged in Covent Garden, all the while,

And, if they sent, in haste, for his assistance,

He soon was with 'em—'twas no mighty distance—

From the town's end it was but a bare mile.

Now Isaac Shove,

Living above

This Doctor Crow,

And knowing Barber Twizzle lived below,

Thought it might be as well,

Hearing so many knocks, single and double,

To buy, at his own cost, a streetdoor bell,

And save confusion, in the house, and trouble ;

Whereby, his (Isaac's) visitors might know,

Without long waiting in the dirt, and drizzle,

To ring for him at once ;—and not to knock for Crow—

Nor Twizzle.

Besides, he now began to feel

The want of it was rather *ungenteel* ;

For he had, often, thought it a disgrace
 To hear, while sitting in his room, above,
 Twizzle's shrill maid, on the first landing place,
 Screaming, "a man below vants Mister Shove!"

The Bell was bought ; the wire was made to steal
 Round the dark staircase, like a tortured eel—

Twisting, and twining ;
 The jemmy handle Twizzle's doorpost graced,
 And, just beneath, a brazen plate was placed,
 Lacquer'd and shining ;—

Graven whereon, in characters full clear,
 And legible, did "Mr. Shove" appear ;
 And, furthermore, which you might read right well,
 Was—"Please to wring the bell."

At half past ten, precisely, to a second,
 Shove, every night, his supper ended ;
 And sipp'd his glass of negus, till he reckon'd,
 By his stopwatch, exactly, one more quarter ;
 Then, as exactly, he untied one garter ;—
 A token 'twas that he for bed intended :

Yet, having, still, a quarter good before him,
 He leisurely undress'd before the fire—
 Contriving, as the quarter did expire,
 To be as naked as his mother bore him ;

Eating his shirt, and nightcap on his head ;—
 Then, as the watchman bawl'd eleven,
 He had one foot in bed,
 More certainly than cuckolds go to Heaven.

Alas ! what pity 'tis that regularity,

Like Isaac Shove's, is such a rarity !

But there are swilling Wights, in London town,

Term'd—Jolly dogs—Choice Spirits—*alias*, Swine ;

Who pour, in midnight revel, bumpers down,

Making their throats a thoroughfare for wine.

These spendthrifts, who Life's pleasures, thus, outrun,

Dosing, with headaches, till the afternoon,

Lose half men's regular estate of Sun,

By borrowing, too largely, of the Moon.

One of this kidney—Toby Tossplot hight—

Was coming from the Bedford, late at night :

And being *Bacchi plenus*—full of wine—

Although he had a tolerable notion

Of aiming at progressive motion

'Twasn't direct—'twas serpentine.

He work'd, with sinuosities, along,

Like Monsieur Corkscrew, worming thro' a Cork ;

Not straight, like Corkscrew's proxy, stiff Don Prong,

A Fork.

At length, with near four bottles in his pate,

He saw the moon shining on Shove's brass plate ;

When reading " Please to ring the bell,"

And being civil, beyond measure,

" Ring it !" Says Toby—" very well ;

I'll ring it with a deal of pleasure."

Toby, the kindest soul in all the town,

Gave it a jerk that almost jerk'd it down.

He waited full two minutes ; no one came ;

He waited full two minutes more ;—and then—

Says Toby, “ if he's deaf, I'm not to blame ;

I'll pull it for the gentleman again.”

But the first peal 'woke Isaac, in a fright,

Who, quick as lightning, popping up his head,

Sat on his head's *Antipodes*, in bed—

Pale as a parsnip—bolt upright.

At length, he, wisely, to himself did say—

Calming his fears—

“ Tush ! 'tis some fool has rung, and run away ;”—

When peal the second rattled in his ears !

Shove jump'd into the middle of the floor ;

And, trembling at each breath of air that stirr'd,
He groped down stairs, and open'd the street door,
While Toby was performing peal the third.

Isaac eyed Toby, fearfully askant—

And saw he was a strapper—stout and tall ;
Then, put this question ;—“Pray, Sir, what d'ye want ?”
Says Toby—“ I want nothing, Sir, at all.”

“ Want nothing !—Sir, you've pull'd my bell, I vow,
As if you'd jerk it off the wire !”

Quoth 'Toby, gravely making him a bow—

“ I pull'd it, Sir, at your desire.”

“At mine !”—“Yes your’s—I hope I’ve done it well ;
 High time for bed, Sir ; I was hast’ning to it ;
 But if you write up *please to ring the bell*,
 Common politeness makes me stop, and do it.”

Isaac, now, waxing wroth apace,
 Slamm’d the street door in Toby’s face,
 With all his might ;
 And Toby, as he shut it, swore
 He was a dirty son of—something more
 Than delicacy suffers me to write :

And, lifting up the knocker, gave a knock,
 So long, and loud, it might have raised the dead ;
 ‘Twizzle declares his house sustain’d a shock,
 Enough to shake his lodgers out of bed.

Toby, his rage thus vented in the rap,
Went serpentine home, to take his nap.

'Tis, now, high time to let you know .
That the obstetric Doctor Crow
Awoke in the beginning of this matter,
By Toby's *tintinnabulary* clatter :

And, knowing that the bell belong'd to Shove,
He listen'd in his bed, but did not move ;

He only did apostrophize—

Sending to hell

Shove, and his bell,

That would'nt let him close his eyes.

But when he heard a thundering *knock*—says he,

“That’s, certainly, a messenger for *me* ;—

Somebody ill, in the Brick House, no doubt ;”—

Then mutter’d, hurrying on his dressing gown,

“I wish my Ladies, out of town,

Chose more convenient times for crying out !”

Crow, in the dark, now, reach’d the staircase head ;

Shove, in the dark, was coming up, to bed.

A combination of ideas flocking,

Upon the pericranium of Crow—

Occasion’d by the hasty knocking,

Succeeded by a foot he heard below ;—

He did, as many folks are apt to do,

Who argue in the dark, and in confusion ;

That is, from the hypothesis, he drew

A false conclusion ;

Concluding Shove to be the person sent,
 With an express, from the brick tenement ;
 Whom Barber Twizzle, torturer of hairs,
 Had, civilly, let in, and sent up stairs.

As Shove came up, tho' he had, long time, kept
 His character, for patience, very laudably,
 He could'nt help, at every step he stepp'd,
 Grunting, and grumbling in his gizzard, audibly ;

For Isaac's mental feelings, you must know,
 Not only were considerably hurt,
 But his corporeal, also—

 Having no other clothing than a shirt ;
 A dress, beyond all doubt, most light and airy,
 It being, then, a frost in January.

When Shove was deep down stairs, the Doctor heard,

(Being much nearer the stair top)

Just here and there, a random word,

Of the Soliloquies that Shove let drop ;—

But, shortly, by progression, brought

To contact nearer,

The Doctor consequently, heard him clearer—

And then the fag end of this sentence caught ;

Which Shove repeated warmly, tho' he shiver'd :—

“ Damn Twizzle's house ! and damn the Bell !

And damn the Fool who rang it !—Well,

From all such plagues I'll quickly be deliver'd.”

“What?—quickly be deliver’d!” echoes Crow;—

“Who is it?—Come, be sharp—reply, reply;

Who wants to be deliver’d? let me know.”

Recovering his surprise, Shove answer’d, “I;”

“*You be deliver’d!*” Says the Doctor—“’Sblood!”

Hearing a man’s gruff voice—“You lout! you lob!”

“You be deliver’d!—Come, that’s very good!”

Says Shove, “I will, so help me Bob!”

“Fellow,” cried Crow, “you’re drunk with filthy beer;

A drunkard, fellow, is a brute’s next neighbor;—

But Miss Clogherty’s time was very near,

And, I suppose, Lucretia’s, now in labor.”

“ Zounds !” bellows Shove, with rage, and wonder
wild,

“ Why, then, my *maiden Aunt* is *big with child* !”

Here was, at once, a sad discovery made !

Lucretia’s frolic, now, was past a joke ;—

Shove trembled, for his Fortune, Crow, his Trade—

Both, both saw ruin—by one fatal stroke !

But, with his Aunt, when Isaac did discuss,

She hush’d the matter up, by speaking thus :—

“ Sweet Isaac !” said Lucretia, “ Spare my Fame !—

Tho’, for my babe, I feel as should a mother,

Your Fortune will continue much the same ;

For—keep the Secret—you’re his *Elder Brother*.”

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